

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EA-10 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00
DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 FAA-00 L-03 SS-15
SP-02 NSC-05 /056 W
-----019317 310823Z /23

P 310738Z MAY 78

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6462

C O N F I D E N T I A L MANILA 08966

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAIR, MILL, RP

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE AIRLINE EMERGENCY LANDING AT CLARK AB

REF: 13TH AF 300900Z MAY 79

FOL TEL FM 13TH AF CLARK AB RP/CC SENT TO HQ PACAF HICKAM AFB HI
INFO HQ PACAF HICKAM/DO/LG/XP AMEMBASSY MANILA AND CINCPACREPHIL
HW REPEATED TO YOU:

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L

SUBJ: PHILIPPINE AIRLINE EMERGENCY LANDING AT CLARK AB.

1. (U) PHILIPPINE AIRLINE (PAL) FLIGHT 264 YS-11A DEPART ED NAGA AIR
PORT

AT 1115L, 29 MAY 78, WITH MANILA INTERNAT'L AIRPORT (MIA) AS THE
DESTINATION. THE ETA AT MANILA WAS 1200L. UPON ARRIVAL OF FLIGHT 264,
MIA WAS CLOSED DUE TO WEATHER. THE ALTERNATE WAS BASA WHICH WAS
BELOW MINIMUMS. THE CAPT STATED THAT HE HELD AT MANILA AS LONG AS
POSSIBLE AND THEN DECLARED AN EMERGENCY AND PROCEEDED TO CLARK AB AND
LANDED AT 1302L WITH A CREW OF SIX AND 47 PASSENGERS. AT THE TIME OF
LANDING THE AIRCRAFT HAD 15 MINUTES OF FUEL ON BOARD. THE PAX
WERE TRANSPORTED TO THE MAC PAX TERMINAL AND QUARANTINED IN THE
ARRIVAL LOUNGE. APPROX 40 MIN LATER, THE DPTY BASE CMDR, THE
WG CMDR, AND THE PHILIPPINE MILITARY LIAISON
OFFICER VISITED THE PAX AT THE TERMINAL AND MADE ARRANGEMENTS FOR
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THEM TO BE CLEARED TO EAT IN THE TERMINAL SNACK BAR.

2. (C) THE CREW WAS TRANSPORTED TO BASE OPS WHERE THE AIRCRAFT CMDR
CONTACTED THE COMPANY OPERATIONS OFFICER IN MANILA. THEY REQUESTED
PERMISSION OF THE BASE TO PURCHASE APPROX 800 GAL OF FUEL ON CREDIT A
N
D

WERE INFORMED THAT ACCORDING TO AFR 144-1, 144-9, AND AFR 67-1 A CASH PAYMENT WAS REQUIRED IN ADVANCE OF OBTAINING THE FUEL. AT THIS TIME THE AIRCRAFT CMDR REQUESTED PERMISSION FROM HIS HOME OFFICE TO WITHDRAW ENOUGH CASH FROM A BANK OFF BASE.

3. (C) AT SOME POINT DURING THE DISCUSSION ON CASH SALES, A PHILIPPINE AIRLINE OFFICIAL APPARENTLY CONTACTED GEN SINGSON, THE HEAD OF THE PHILIPPINE CIVIL AERONAUTICS ADMINISTRATION. WORD WAS PASSED THRU A PAL OFFICIAL THAT GEN SINGSON HAD GUARANTEED PAYMENT AND THAT WE SHOULD REFUEL THE AIRCRAFT. AT APPROX 1445, THE FLIGHT CREW WAS AUTHORIZED BY THEIR OPERATIONS OFFICER TO PROCEED TO A BANK OFF BASE AND WITHDRAW THE REQUIRED 35,000 PESOS. THE PMLO ACCOMPANIED THE CREW TO THE BANK AND RETURN.

4. (C) AT 1500L, CLARK RAPCON NOTIFIED BASE OPS THAT MANILA EAST AIR

TRAFFIC CONTROL WOULD NOT CLEAR ANY AIRCRAFT TO DEPART CLARK AB IFR UNTIL THE PAL AIRCRAFT WAS AIRBORNE, BY ORDER OF GEN SINGSON.

AT THIS POINT, THE DPTY BASE CMDR TRIED TO PERSONALLY CONTACT GEN SINGSON;

HOWEVER, GEN SINGSON HAD LEFT WORD THAT HE WOULD NOT TALK TO ANYONE EXCEPT

THE BASE CMDR. THE BASE CMDR WAS SO ADVISED, AND HE SUCCEEDED IN CONTACTING GEN SINGSON. THE BASE CMDR STATED THAT GEN SINGSON WAS IRRATIONAL AND SCREAMING ABOUT AN EMERGENCY AND THAT WE WOULDN'T GIVE THE FUEL. HE WAS TOLD THAT THE FUEL WAS ON THE WAY AND THAT THE AIRCRAFT CONFIDENTIAL

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WOULD

BE REFUELED AS SOON AS THE CREW RETURNED WITH THE MONEY. THE BASE CMD

REQUESTED THAT AIRCRAFT BE PERMITTED TO DEPART CLARK IFR AND GEN SINGSON

AGREED; HOWEVER, HE DID NOT LIFT THIS RESTRICTION. THE AIRCREW ARRIVED

WITH THE CASH PAYMENT AND REFUELING OPERATIONS BEGAN. AS SOON AS REFUELING

WAS COMPLETE, APPROX 1640L, THE BASE CMDR AGAIN CONTACTED GEN SINGSON

TODAY THE AIRCRAFT WAS BEING LOADED AND AGAIN REQUESTED THAT IFR DEPARTURE

RESTRICTIONS BE LIFTED. AGAIN GEN SINGSON SAID HE WOULD LIFT THE RESTRICTION; HOWEVER, WE DID NOT RECEIVE CLEARANCE FOR AIRCRAFT TO DEPART UNTIL AFTER PAL FLIGHT 264 WAS AIRBORNE TO MANILA AT 1724L. THE

LONG DELAY FROM THE COMPLETION OF REFUELING AND BOARDING OF PAX TO TAKEOFF WAS DUE TO THE AIRCRAFT BOARDING STEPS WHICH WOULD NOT FULLY RETRACT INTO THE AIRCRAFT.

5.(C)DUE TO THE DEPARTURE RESTRICTIONS IMPOSED BY MANILA ATC,A FLIGHT OF FOUR MARINE A-4S WAS DELAYED 2 HRS 4 MIN, AND A NAVY C-130 TACAMO WAS DELAYED 1 HR 8 MIN.

6. (C) I HAVE DIRECTED MY LG STAFF TO INVESTIGATE THE POSSIBILITY OF A CREDIT AGREEMENT THAT WOULD PERMIT PAL AIRCREWS TO PURCHASE FUEL IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS. IF THIS IS POSSIBLE, WE WOULD ENCOURAGE PAL TO REQUEST SUCH AN AGREEMENT. HOWEVER, I DON'T WISH TO SUGGEST THIS TO PHILIPPINE OFFICIALS UNLESS WE CAN BE ASSURED THAT HQ USAF WOULD ACCEPT THEIR REQUEST. IF THEY APPLIED AND WERE TURNED DOWN, WE WILL HAVE MADE THE LOCAL OPERATION MUCH WORSE THAN AT PRESENT. I PLAN TO DISCUSS THIS INCIDENT WITH US EMBASSY PERSONNEL ON 31 MAY 78. GDS 1984 UNQUOTE TOUSSAINT

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